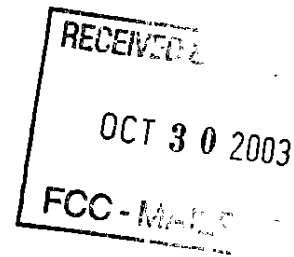


EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
PUBLIC NOTICE



October 22, 2003

ORIGINAL

**Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554**

Dear Madam Secretary:

**RE: In the matter of Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band;
WT Docket No. 02-55 (Ex Parte)**

The City of Groves, Texas is writing to express its opposition to Nextel's so-called "Consensus Plan". As discussed below in greater detail, we believe that the Consensus Plan will unnecessarily jeopardize Public Safety communication systems.

The City of Groves, Texas operates under a licensed 800 MHz communications system, which is used by our Fire and Police Departments. Nextel's proposal will adversely impact efforts to obtain interoperability communications with other Public Safety agencies as directed by the Federal government. If this proposal is approved, our ability to assist federal agencies in providing homeland security will be adversely affected.

We are concerned that the Consensus Plan's relocation process is extremely complicated, and there is no guarantee that Public Safety licensees will be able to continually operate their communications systems during this process. Furthermore, it is unrealistic to expect all Public Safety licensees to relocate in 12 months or less given the complexity of some Public Safety systems.

Also, Public Safety licensees could be subject to more interference because the Consensus Plan protects Public Safety licensees only if they meet certain signal strength and receiver requirements. Because most Public Safety communication systems do not

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

meet these requirements, they will have to expend significant resources to ensure that they are protected from interference. Further, the interference situation could be worse if rebanding is not completed before Nextel's funding runs out.

In view of the above-stated problems with Nextel's plan, we urge the FCC to disapprove this proposal.

Sincerely,



Brad Bailey
Mayor

Cc: Senator John Cornyn
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
Congressman Nick Lampson